

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

FORMATION: Was formed in Melbourne on 19th October, 1970 as an unincorporated body.

- OBJECTS :
- a) To encourage the application of co-operative principles and methods to economic and social needs by the formation and development of co-operative organisations and associations for distribution, manufacturing, marketing, housing, health insurance, credit and any other services or activities to which co-operative principles and methods may be applied.
 - b) To carry on, encourage and assist educational and advisory work relating to co-operative enterprises.
 - c) To further and protect the interests of co-operatives by action in making representations to responsible authorities.
 - d) To print, publish and circulate any newspapers or other publication in the interest of co-operative enterprises, practice and principles.
 - e) To render services designed to ensure efficiency and uniformity in the conduct of the business of its members.

TWO TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

Full members - have voting rights and can have representatives stand for election to council of the federation.

Associate members - can attend and speak at general meetings, but have no vote and cannot have a representative stand for election to council.

FULL MEMBERS:

Co-operative Associations, Federations, Societies and Corporations are eligible to be full members provided that

- a) they support the following co-operative principles:-
 - 1. open membership
 - 2. democratic control
 - 3. co-operative distribution of surplus.
- b) they agree to pay the membership subscription to the Federation.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- (i) The co-operative organisations eligible to be full members, but which do not desire to become full members are eligible to become associate members provided they agree to pay the associate membership subscription.
- (ii) Any person not under 18 years of age is also eligible to be an associate member provided that he agrees to pay the appropriate subscription.

INDIVIDUAL
SOCIETY
ELIGIBILITY:

Membership of the federation is not open to any co-operative organisation which is not a member of the appropriate constituent association.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

To be fixed annually by the council and shall be payable in advance. However the federation was formed on the understanding that it would seek donations by interested bodies for the first two years.

MEMBER REPRESENTATION:

A Member Co-operative organisation nominates in writing one person to represent it at meetings of the Federation. No representative shall represent more than one member at the same time.

FINANCIAL
YEAR:

The financial year ends on 30th September.

ANNUAL
CONGRESS:

An annual congress of the federation is to be held within 6 months of the end of the financial year.

WHO CAN ATTEND
THE ANNUAL
CONGRESS:

- (a) Representatives of affiliated societies of a member association or federation.
- (b) Representatives of any member society or corporation.
- (c) Persons who are associate members.

VOTING :

Each representative shall have one vote.

QUORUM :

20 people.

NOTICE OF
ANNUAL CONGRESS :

At least 21 days notice in writing is to be given to members.

CONTROL BY
COUNCIL :

The Federation shall be controlled by a council consisting of:-

- (a) One Councillor appointed by each State Association the membership of whose constituent societies total less than ten thousand persons as at the end of the financial year preceding the Congress.
- (b) Two Councillors appointed by each State Association the membership of whose constituent societies is above ten thousand persons as at the end of the financial year preceding the Congress.
- (c) One Councillor appointed by each branch of the Federation.

3.

- (d) A number of Councillors elected by the Congress up to a number equal to one less than the total of those appointed under a, b and c above, provided they are elected from representatives of members other than those representing State Associations.

ELECTION AND
RETIREMENT OF
COUNCILLORS :

Election of the required number of councillors is an agenda item for annual congress.
Half the elected councillors retire at every annual congress.

COUNCIL
OFFICERS :

The council shall appoint a councillor as chairman; and a councillor or other person as secretary; other officers as it thinks fit.

COUNCIL QUORUM:

One more than half the number of councillors.

COMMITTEES AND
SUB-COMMITTEES:

Council has power to appoint committees and sub-committees of members and other persons.

CONFERENCES :

Council may convene conferences of members as often as it deems necessary.

BRANCH :

The congress or a special general meeting may charter a branch of the Federation in any country zone of Victoria.

JOINING OR
CONTRIBUTING
TO OTHER
BODIES :

The council may join or make contributions to any organisation or body corporate or unincorporate which includes among its objects the rendering of services to the Federation or its members or the operations of which are calculated to promote the economic interest of the Federation or its members.

WHAT BODIES
HAS THE COUNCIL
JOINED? :

The Co-operative Federation of Australia - the national body for co-operatives in Australia.
The Co-operative Federation of Australia is affiliated with the International Co-operative Alliance a world wide co-ordinating body for all types co-operatives.

WHAT ORGANI-
SATIONS ARE
MEMBERS OF
C.F.V. NOW?

ASSOCIATIONS - FEDERATIONS

Victorian Credit Co-operative Association
Victorian Trading Co-operative Association
Victorian Artificial Breeders Association
Federation of Co-operative Housing Societies of Victoria

SOCIETIES OR CORPORATIONS

Phosphate Co-operative
Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia
Murray Goulburn Co-operative
Y.C.W. Co-operative Society

SOCIETIES OF
VICTORIA :
(Cont.)

(Security Co-operative
(Permanent Building Society
Home Land Co-operative

Aggregate individual memberships of member bodies is 150,000 people.

OFFICERS

: Present officers of the council are:-

Chairman : Mr. J.E. Mason
Vice Chairman : Mr. B.H. Macintosh
Hon. Secretary : Mr. R.B. Maybury

MEETINGS

: The Council has met monthly since formation and has had a few ad hoc sub committees for special purposes.

BUDGET

: Councils budgetted income for its first year is \$2,300 and budgetted expenditure is \$2,500, providing for a deficit of \$200.
Income is coming from donations from Associations, societies and corporations.
The Federation received financial help from the body which promoted its foundation - the Co-operative Development Society. That society met all formation expenses and donated to the Federation its assets. Chief among these are two films.

RANGE OF
ACTIVITIES &
DISCUSSIONS:

The council has dealt with a wide variety of subjects. Among them are :-

Decision to publish a Co-op Digest for directors and staff of Co-operatives. First issue will be published in August 1971.

Decision to publish a regular Newsletter for member bodies. First issue will be published shortly.

Co-operated with Community Aid Abroad and with Co-operative Federation of Australia to obtain a Commonwealth Government Fellowship Award for an Indonesian person to study co-operatives in Australia in 1972.

Co-operated with Co-operative Federation of Australia and Victorian Government in planning visit to Australia of International Co-operative Alliance Regional Committee and Agricultural Committee for a meeting in November, 1971.

Arranged for the Governor of Victoria to officially open their meeting in Melbourne.

RANGE OF
ACTIVITIES &
DISCUSSIONS:
(Cont.)

Assisted in arrangements for Vo-operative Federation of Australia's annual council meeting to be held in Melbourne in September, 1971.

Provided speakers for High School discussion on co-operatives.

Commenced work on building up an improved research service on Co-operatives in Victoria.

In ten months enough discussion and action has occurred to give councillors encouragement that there is a big job for the Federation to do.

HISTORY OF
FORMATION :

Mention has already been made of assistance by the Co-operative Development Society. Any report on the Federation at this stage would be incomplete without paying tribute to the part the Co-operative Development Society played in bringing the Federation into being.

The Development Society was registered as a Community Advancement Society in 1961 to be the education unit of the group of co-operatives known as the Y.C.W. Co-operative Movement. That movement through the Co-operative Development Society showed that housing trading and credit co-operatives were prepared to contribute money for education of all types of co-operatives. Promotion of new co-operatives and especially of Credit Co-operatives came from the funds and personal voluntary labour of trading and housing societies in the early 1960's. From 1964 onwards the Co-operative Development Society saw that what it was co-ordinating for one group of co-operatives could well be widened to cover the whole of Victorian Co-operatives.

In 1966 a broadened association of credit societies came into being.

Through seminars in 1968 and 1969 interest in the desirability of a Co-operative Federation for Victoria was awakened. The Co-operative Development Society a few years ago made it known that it would close down in favour of a Federation whenever one came into being.

It has kept to its word and as we meet here tonight I can tell you that the Co-operative Development Society having divested itself of its small but useful assets to the Co-operative Federation, is entering its last legal formalities of voluntary and solvent liquidation. The Co-operative Development Society despite its humble and short existence created something potentially great in this new Federation.